

Claims

1. An optical network arranged in a manner such that in use at least one management function in the optical network is being effected utilising standard TCP/IP communication protocols.

2. A network as claimed in claim 1, wherein the optical network is arranged in a manner such that, in use, the management function is being effected on a computer located within a network element of the optical network.

3. A network as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the management function comprises the distribution of one or more of the group of alarm reports, audit logs, alarm logs, and status reports.

4. A network as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~^{claim 1}, wherein the optical network is arranged in a manner such that, in use, the management function is being effected via e-mail messages transmitted using the standard TCP/IP protocols.

5. A network as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~^{claim 1}, wherein the optical network may be arranged in a manner such that, in use, the management function is being effected via an HTTP server incorporated in the network element and accessible via a conventional web browser.

6. A network as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~^{claim 1}, wherein the network element comprises a network node or an in-line amplifier.

7. A method of managing an optical network, the method comprising the step of effecting at least one management function of the optical network utilising standard TCP/IP communications protocols.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the management function is being effected on a computer located within a network element of the optical network.

9. A method as claimed in claims 7 or 8, wherein the management function comprises the distribution of one or more of the group of alarm reports, audit logs, alarm logs, and status reports.

10. A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~^{claim 7}, wherein the management function is being effected via e-mail messages transmitted using standard TCP/IP protocols.

a 11. A method as claimed in ^{claim 7}~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~, wherein the management function is being effected via an HTTP server incorporated in the network element and accessible via a conventional web browser.

a 12. A method as claimed in ^{claim 7}~~any one of claims 7 to 11~~, wherein the network element may comprise a network node or an in-line amplifier.

13. A network element for use in an optical network, the network element comprising means for, in use, communicating using standard TCP/IP protocols to effect at least one management function in relation to the network element.

14. A network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for communicating comprises an SMTP server application.

15. A network element as claimed in claims 13 or 14, wherein the means for communicating may comprise an HTTP server application.

a 16. A network element as claimed in ^{claim 13}~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~, wherein the management function comprises the distribution of one or more of the group of alarm reports, audit logs, alarm logs, and status reports.

a 17. A network element as claimed in ^{claim 13}~~any one of claims 13 to 16~~, wherein the network element is in the form of a network node or an in-line amplifier.

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